

# University Professor

Teach and research at a university. The pay is good, the training is long, and permanent jobs are scarce.

## TYPICAL PAY

**\$122,000**

a year, full time

## PAY RANGE

**\$63k to \$192k**

starting to experienced

## TIME TO QUALIFY

**9 to 14 years**

after high school

## DEMAND

**Limited**

job outlook

## LICENCE NEEDED

**No**

anyone can do it

## WHERE YOU WORK

**Universities, lecture halls, research labs, offices**

## How you get there

- 1 High school** Grades 11 and 12  
Strong grades and a subject you could read about for fun. Nothing else is required yet.
- 2 Bachelor's degree** 3 to 4 years  
Grades matter here. So does getting into a professor's lab or research project as an undergraduate.
- 3 Master's degree** 1 to 2 years  
Some fields let strong students go straight to a doctorate instead.
- 4 Doctorate** 4 to 6 years  
Original research, a long dissertation, and teaching as a TA (teaching assistant). You are paid a modest stipend while you do it.
- 5 Postdoc, then the job market** 0 to 4 years  
Short research contracts while you apply. Hundreds of applicants for one posting is normal, and you go where the job is.

## Pros and cons

- + You pick your own research questions
- + Tenure is close to permanent job security
- + Paid research leave every several years
- 9 to 14 years of training before a permanent job
- Far more graduates than permanent positions
- You move to wherever the job is, not where you want to live

## Good to know

### Tenure exists to protect unpopular research

The point is not comfort. It is that a professor can publish findings a government, a donor or the university president dislikes without losing the job. That is why it survives.

### Canadian universities teach about 1.5 million students

Universities Canada puts enrolment at roughly 1.5 million students and the sector's economic impact at about \$48 billion a year.

## Optional boosts

Published papers. Grant money. Teaching experience. A field the department needs.

### Where these numbers come from

Job Bank: University professor, wages (updated Nov 2025)

Canadian Association of University Teachers

Universities Canada

Statistics Canada: salaries of full-time teaching staff at Canadian universities

Numbers checked September 2026. Pay figures are typical full-time annual amounts in Canadian dollars, based on Government of Canada Job Bank wage data and published salary grids. They vary by province, employer and experience. Tuition is for domestic students. Sources, links and the click-through version: <https://career.help/ca/careers/university-professor>



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